

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants have studied the office action mailed August 7, 2008, and have made the changes believed appropriate to place the application in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 57 and 58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 53 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claims 57 and 58. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the objection to the claims should be withdrawn.

Although Applicants amended and cancelled claims, Applicants are not conceding in this application that the claims in their original form are invalid for being unpatentable, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are for facilitating expeditious prosecution. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in this present application and one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Claims 53 and 59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,345,392 to Mito et al. referred hereinafter Mito in view of US Patent No. 6,543,002 to Kahle et al. referred hereinafter "Kahle". This rejection is respectfully traversed. Although applicants disagree, claim 53 has been amended and claim 59 has been cancelled without prejudice as set forth above to expedite prosecution. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 53 and 59 is moot.

The Examiner has made various comments concerning the anticipation or obviousness of certain features of the present inventions. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants have addressed those comments directly hereinabove or the Examiner's comments are deemed moot in view of the above response.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable.
Should any additional fees be required beyond those paid, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0466.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7970 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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